

SOVIET SPYING SEEN AS FAR BACK AS 1940

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two Americans implicated in the Soviet espionage effort, according to the House committee.

Eltenton was offered Soviet money in return for his co-operation in obtaining the information on the secret work at Berkeley, committee investigators charge. Chevalier made the actual contact with Oppenheimer, which was summarily rejected and later reported to the FBI, according to the evidence in committee hands.

Gregori Kheifets, former head of the Soviet consulate in San Francisco, who is listed as an agent of the NKVD, the secret police agency of the Russian Army, masterminded the entire espionage activities on the West Coast and elsewhere, according to committee records. He began his known espionage operations in 1940, which culminated in the alleged contact between a consul aid, Peter Ivanov, and Eltenton, in 1942.

During the period between 1940 and 1942, when the alleged espionage "approach" to Oppenheimer was made by Chevalier, Vassili Zubilin, a Soviet diplomatic official in Washington, became involved in the plot. Kheifets, Ivanov and Zubilin have all returned to Russia, out of reach of Federal courts.

Traces Woman's Trail.

Louise Bransten, wealthy San Franciscan and the divorced wife of the former owner of the Communist New Masses, left a trail of alleged pro-Russian activities which the committee investigator, Louis J. Russell, traced for the Thomas group during the explosive final day of the Hollywood hearings. She was linked, Russell said, to almost a dozen prominent motion picture people by the disclosures. She also conferred frequently with Soviet consulate officials or their representatives, according to the committee report.

Others in Hollywood who associated with her were named as follows:

Herbert Biberman, director, ordered cited for contempt of Congress; in Howard Lawson, screen writer, facing contempt charges and labeled by witnesses as "a Hollywood Commissar"; Waldo Salt, who, according to committee records, holds a card in the Communist party; Lester

tory, particularly information regarding the highly destructive weapon which was being developed through research.

Oppenheimer Balked Move.

Eltenton said that he had a line of communication with an official of the Soviet Government who had advised him that, since Russia and the United States were Allies, Soviet Russia should be entitled to any technical data which might be of assistance to that nation. At the time of this particular conversion, Chevalier advised Eltenton that he would contact a third person, who was working in the atomic energy laboratory, and attempt to secure information regarding the type of work conducted there, or any information which he could regarding technical developments that might be useful to the Soviet Government.

Chevalier approached J. Robert Oppenheimer and told him that Eltenton was interested in obtaining information regarding work at the laboratory. Oppenheimer was also informed by Chevalier that Eltenton had a source through which he could relay the information to the Soviet Government.

Dr. Oppenheimer said that he considered such attempts as this to secure information a treasonable act, and that he certainly would not have anything to do with such a thing. Dr. Oppenheimer subsequently was in charge of assembly of the atomic bomb at Los Alamos, N. M.

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New York "Sun"
Oct. 31, 1947

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